

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

- 1 -

01-EDP-258

TRANSFER SWITCH INCLUDING A CIRCUIT BREAKER HOUSING

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is related to commonly assigned, concurrently filed United States Patent Application Serial No. 10/003,133, filed November 15, 2001, entitled "Transfer Switch Including A Circuit Breaker Housing" (Attorney Docket No. 01-EDP-259).

This application is also related to commonly assigned United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/776,602, filed February 2, 2001, entitled "Circuit Breaker" (Attorney Docket No. 01-EDP-011).

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

This invention relates to transfer switches and, more particularly, to transfer switches for selectively feeding power from one of two input lines to a load.

Background Information

Transfer switches are known in the art. See, for example, U.S. Patent No. 5,397,868.

Transfer switches operate, for example, to transfer a power-consuming load from a circuit with a normal power supply to a circuit with an auxiliary power supply. Applications for transfer switches include stand-by applications, among others, in which the auxiliary power supply stands-by if the normal power supply should fail.

A transfer switch typically comprises a pair of circuit interrupters combined with a drive input and a linkage system. The preferred types of circuit interrupters have been molded-case switches and molded-case circuit breakers because these types are commercially available in a wide array of sizes and are relatively economical compared to other options. The preferred type of drive input depends on the application for the transfer switch. Usually motors are preferred, but at other times there is a clear preference for manually operated mechanisms.

In most residential and commercial buildings, the electrical wiring is only fed by a utility power source. In order to have a backup power source, such as a